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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/575,154	05/23/2000	Paul Lapstun	NPT001US	9107

7590 04/19/2002
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Balmain,
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EXAMINER

ST CYR, DANIEL

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2876

DATE MAILED: 04/19/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/575,154

Applicant(s)

LAPSTUN ET AL.

Examiner

Daniel St.Cyr

Art Unit

2876

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 May 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-107 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-107 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

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DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 2-58 and 60-107 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claims 2-58 and 60-107, line 1, "A" should be changed to --The--.

Claim 58 should begin with --The region--.

Claim 74, line 1, "43" should be changed to --43--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

4. Claims 1-54 and 58 drawn to the region and method claims 59-99 and 103-107 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Dymetman et al, US patent No. 6,330,976.

Dymetman et al disclose a marking medium area with encoded identifier for producing action through network comprising: a coded substrate supplier used to produce machine-readable markings. The coded substrate includes invisible markings on paper, which is nonetheless detected by the detection circuitry in a pointer device. Ultra-violet (UV) ink is used to print invisible markings on white paper. The coded substrate supplier could produce sheets of paper in different formats for different uses by the publishing industry. Each sheet can be processed through a specialized printing procedure which (1) assigns a fresh page-identifier (and possibly page-id-code) to the sheet, and (2) prints in UV ink machine-readable markings encoding the page-identifier (and possibly page-id-code) on the surface of the sheet. In standard trichromatic printing, three layers of coloured inks (yellow, magenta, and cyan) are superposed to produce all visible colours. Each layer filters one part of the light spectrum independently of the others. An encoded representation of the page-identifier, i.e. an item of data whose value uniquely identifies the page, within cell border 204, such as a first set of markings 208; and an encoded representation of location information, such as a location code uniquely defining the position of cell 202 within the page, within cell border 204, such as a second set of markings 210, illustratively smaller in size than first set 208 (see col. 11, line 5+, col. 13; figures 1-3, 7, 8).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

7. Claims 55-57 and 100-102 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dymetman et al. The teachings of Dymetman et al have been discussed above.

Dymetman et al fails to disclose or fairly suggests the specific dimension of the region and the specific layout of the coded data for identifying the region, as set forth in the claims. However, such specific limitations fall within the engineering design choice for meeting specific limitations, failing to provide any unexpected results. Therefore, it would have been obvious for an artisan to design the system of Dymetman et al into such specific measurement for meeting customers' requirements.

Additional Remarks

8. It is noted that WO Patent No. 99/50787 and US Patent No. 5,661,506 are cited as X-reference in the international search report.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Lamming, US Patent No. 5,535,063, discloses a real time user indexing of random access time stamp correlated databases. Huffman et al, US Patent No. 5,663,748, disclose an electronic book having highlighting feature. Petrie et al, US Patent No. 5,937,110, parallel propagating embedded binary sequences for characterizing objects. Monier, US Patent No. 6,032,196, disclose a system for adding a new entry to web page table upon receiving a web page.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel St.Cyr whose telephone number is 703-305-2656. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri.

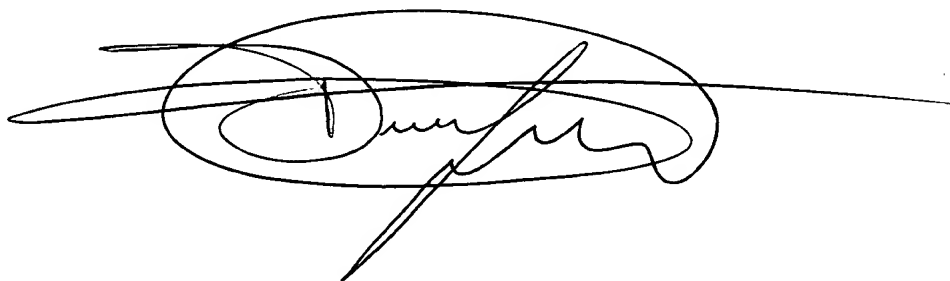
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G Lee can be reached on 703-305-3503. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-7721 for regular communications and 703-308-7724 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

Daniel St.Cyr
Examiner
Art Unit 2876

DS

April 12, 2002

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel St.Cyr', is written over a large, horizontal, oval-shaped scribble or stamp.